



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for 1971.



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OLD FLETTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1971)

Councillor T. E. J. CROFTS (Chairman)

MRS. M. Y. BUDDING

W. R. CASHMORE

A. D. COLEMAN

H. J. ELSOM

G. W. GOODALE

M. H. HOLL

J. W. B. TAYLOR

G. W. WILSON

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health PHILIP V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector L. DEARDEN, A.I.A.S.,
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.
Barrister-at-Law

Deputy Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.....T.A. WHITE, M.A.P.H.I.

Trainee Public Health Inspector.....M. A. TIGHE (Resigned 28.2.71)

To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1971.

The District lies immediately to the south of the City of Peterborough. The main industries are brick-making, sugar manufacture, engineering, food canning and printing. Many of the residents earn their living by working in the City.

The Registrar General estimated that the mid-year population of the District was 13,550 an increase of 90 over the previous year.

There were 221 live births during the year, the crude birth rate being 16.3 per 1,000 population. The adjusted rate was 14.2 per 1,000 and the rate for England and Wales was 16.

There were 4% of illegitimate live births. Nationally the percentage was 8.

There were 5 still-births and 7 infant deaths during the year. This gave us higher rates than usual. The still-birth rate was 22 per thousand total births, compared to a national rate of 12 per thousand. The infant mortality rate was 32 per 1,000 live births as compared to a national rate of 18. The figures upon which these rates are based are small, therefore on occasions the rates can vary widely. After 1974 when the districts are larger it will be found that the rates will remain more stable from year to year.

Deaths during the year totalled 128, 77 being males and 51 females, the crude death rate was 9.4 per 1,000 and the adjusted rate 12.6 per 1,000. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.6. There were 30 deaths from Cancer and 12 of these were lung cancer (11 men and 1 woman). Two of these cases were between 45 and 55 and another three were under 65 years of age. I have commented many times before now that if only people would cut out smoking these deaths would be largely eliminated. The sad thing is that it kills men just at a time when they have families to support and are at the peak of their earning capacity. It is now known that cutting out smoking would also help to reduce deaths from Ischaemic Heart Disease. Thirty nine of the deaths were due to this condition.

There was little infectious disease notified during the year. The most frequently notified was Infective Jaundice 15 cases, then came measles 11 cases.

The number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases has fallen all over the Country in recent years. This is partly due to better housing and sanitary conditions, but mainly to the availability of immunisation against these diseases. Infections with Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis are now rare in this Country and Measles and Whooping Cough are considerably reduced. I must emphasise however that if the immunisation programme is allowed to deteriorate so that the number of persons immunised falls below a certain percentage any of the infectious diseases could return.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council and their Officers and Staff and to my Professional Colleagues in the District for their help during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1971)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,550
Density of persons per acre	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.5
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1971	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,521
Rateable Value, 31/12/71	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£673,682
Value of new 1p rate, 31/3/71	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£6,763 (Decimal)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	221
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Total live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	226
Infant deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.4

INFANT DEATHS

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Actual Number of Deaths	4	5	3	4	3	7
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	15.2	20	13	17	13	32
Deaths from Cancer including Leukaemia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Ischaemic Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 LiveBirths	Per1,000 TotalBirths
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	16.3	14.2	9.4	12.6	32	22
England & Wales	16.0	16.0	11.6	11.6	18	12

Comparability Factor for Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.87
Comparability Factor for Deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.34

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	5	8
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	1	12
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	—	1
Leukaemia	1	—	1
Other malignant neoplasms	3	2	5
Diabetes Mellitus	—	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	—	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	—	1	1
Hypertensive disease	—	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	26	13	39
Other forms of heart disease	1	2	3
Cerebrovascular disease	10	7	17
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	5	13
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	2	5
Peptic ulcer	—	1	1
Other diseases, Genito-urinary system	—	2	2
Congenital anomalies	2	1	3
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	—	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	—	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
TOTAL All causes	77	51	128

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1971.

Total Deaths	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Cases admitted to Hospital	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|
65 & upwards	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
45 — 65	|	|	|	|	|	|	3	|	|	|	|	|
35 — 45	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
20 — 35	|	|	|	|	|	|	2	1	1	1	|	|
15 — 20	|	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	|	|	|
10 — 15	|	|	|	|	|	|	7	|	|	|	|	|
5 — 10	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
4 — 5	|	|	|	2	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|
3 — 4	|	|	|	2	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
2 — 3	|	|	|	3	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
1 — 2	|	|	|	4	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
under 1 year	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
TOTAL	|	|	|	11	2	|	15	1	1	1	|	|
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jaundice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acute Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Nr. Peterborough. PE2 8RB
Tel. Peterborough 68010

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December 1971.

HOUSING

Provision of housing for the elderly was again the Council's main concern during the year. A further six "Guildway" bungalows were erected on a clearance site adjacent to six similar units completed last year. By December work was in progress on eighteen bungalows spread over four small infilling sites. These were of timber frame construction with an external brick skin, the particular type used being chosen after an assessment of several different designs. In addition the Development Corporation commenced work on 28 flats, the initial stage of their Bakers Lane development.

Design work for traditional bungalows continued for the Burystead site comprising 27 units and land off St. Margaret's Road and High Street came into consideration primarily as sites for elderly persons' dwellings. In the case of Kings Road, however, it was felt that this would produce too heavy a concentration of one age group and a proportion of houses for families on the general waiting list should be included.

The policy of selling existing houses to sitting tenants continued, and the number increased from 7 in 1970 to 30 in 1971. 26 Valuations were made of private dwellings, 93 in respect of Council houses. The majority of the latter occurred during the last two months of the year and caused a considerable increase in the volume of work for the department.

The increase in Improvement Grants noted last year continued, 40 standard and 10 discretionary grants being approved. In all total payments of work performed amount to £5,711. It does seem that owner-occupiers and landlords are at last realising that these grants, freed as they now are from restrictions, are a very good bargain indeed.

Work continued throughout the year on rewiring your stock of houses to an improved standard which had the dual effect of increasing the convenience to the tenant arising from a larger number of outlets, and also of improving the safety standard of the wiring itself. This work has now been completed in 345 houses.

Thirty-one tenants took advantage of the Council's scheme for the installation of central heating to Parker Morris standard in their homes. Of these 14 opted for solid fuel, 11 for gas and 6 for electricity.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1820
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2253

(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses(exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	105
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(A) roceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(C) Proceedings under Section 42 Part III of the Housing Act, 1957	
CLEARANCE AREAS	
(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	Nil
(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil
(5) Number of families displaced during the year	2
(6) Number of houses demolished during the year	6
(D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 35 of the Housing Act 1957.	
(1) Houses made subject to closing Orders.	1

SLUM CLEARANCE

Six houses were demolished during the year in St. Margaret's Road, families being rehoused in suitable accommodation. Inspection work on Clearance Area No. 18, which comprises 15 houses, was completed towards the end of December, and the Area will be represented to the Department of the Environment early the following year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The short term improvement scheme for the Sewage Disposal Works was completed during the year. This consisted of the installation of a Kessener type paddle, the substitution of 3 old humus tanks by Banks Clarifiers, and the construction of a final effluent ditch with facilities for humus removal. This small scheme brought about an improvement in the quality of the final effluent, the exact extent of which was however masked by the almost complete closure of a large food canning factory which contributed a considerable proportion of the pollution load with which these Works deal. At the same time methane gas recirculation was introduced in connection with the heated Digestion Tank, and this was successful after a considerable period of operation in breaking up the scum layer which had formed on top of the tank contents. The increase in gas production was immediately apparent, although here too the elimination of the discharge from the Canning Works referred to above reduced the volume of sludge to be dealt with, and so of course the volume of gas evolved. Care expended on the open spaces in and around the Works showed results in the improved appearance of the whole area. Information obtained from the records maintained by the Superintendent continued to be supplied to your Consulting Engineers in connection with the design basis for the long term extensions currently under consideration. Work continued on the Folksworth sewer contract being carried out by the Norman Cross R.D.C., and it is anticipated that we shall obtain the benefit of the South Street/Church Street section of this as an overflow to our overloaded Whittlesey Road sewer early in the coming year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

A weekly collection was maintained, apart from Bank Holidays, throughout the year, the staff participating in a 10% bonus under the Council's productivity scheme. At the same time the separate bulk refuse collection was maintained. The oldest collection vehicle was replaced by one having facilities for handling bulk refuse containers, and possessing a degree of compaction of materials in the lorry body. This gives additional flexibility for trade refuse collection, and effected a worthwhile reduction in the number of journeys made to the tip. Discussions with the London Brick Company were held in order to secure an alteration in the shape of the site leased for tipping.

STREET SWEEPING

A new sweeper/collection vehicle was obtained as a replacement for an existing vehicle during this year. We continued to cleanse all roads in the

district, being reimbursed by the County Council in respect of classified roads.

Gully emptying was carried out by a contractor, being recharged where appropriate to the County in the same manner as street sweeping.

FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year 8 cwts 62 lbs of food products were condemned and disposal was effected by burying on the Council's tip under supervision.

The food trades in the district are made up as follows:—

- 1 Hotel
- 1 Bakehouse
- 5 Works Canteens
- 4 School Kitchens
- 7 Fried Fish
- 6 Butchers
- 1 Meat Produce
- 35 Grocery
- 13 Licensed Premises.

Inspection of these premises were made throughout the year and no action required to be taken under Sections 16 or 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970.

POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At the end of 1971 there were 40 premises within the Urban District covered by the above Act. Briefly speaking, the Act covers an office or shop where a person, not of the immediate family of the owner, is employed for more than 21 hours per week. In addition to the 40 quoted above there were other premises covered by the Act where action was enforceable by the Inspector of Factories.

Altogether there are 515 persons employed in registered premises within the District. Six contraventions of the Act were found on inspection and all were dealt with informally. No accidents were reported during the year.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The number of licensed installations in 26, all of which were inspected during the year

RODENT CONTROL

The part-time operative and the deputy Public Health Inspector both attended courses on this subject given by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food during the year. Warfarin continued to be the major poison used in the absence of warfarin resistance, alpha-chloralose being used for mice. 104 complaints were received during the year, none of which constituted a major infestation.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The number of premises contained in smoke controlled areas rose during the year due to the completion of further dwellings in Stanground. This will continue during the coming year, and will accelerate as completions take place on the Development Corporation's Bakers Lane estate. Shortage of smokeless solid fuels, which was such a severe hindrance to the campaign during the winter of 1969/70, was not eventually as serious as anticipated. There is no doubt that it had a damaging effect on the campaign from a national viewpoint. Pollution from existing properties outside smoke controlled areas continued to fall due to individual occupiers changing over to other than bitumous coal. In its role as a landlord the Council have taken their part in this trend by offering central heating installations using smokeless fuels to all their tenants.

NOISE

I referred last year to the recording of noise levels arising from the testing of hovercraft on one of London Brick Company's knotholes. In the event the Company concerned ceased operations and what could have been a potential source of nuisance did not arise.

Discussions were taking place before the end of the year for the use of this knothole for a variety of water sports, one of which might well be water ski-ing, and monitoring of noise from the towing boats will have to be undertaken if this project comes to fruition.

Occasional complaints were received in respect of two industrial installations which required investigation by your staff, appropriate action being taken in each case.

NUISANCES

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	105
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....	No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

Rats and Mice

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

No. of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104
No. of houses treated and cleared	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104

INFECTIOUS DISEASES— VISITS AND DISINFECTION

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
No. of Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Premises disinfected :— (a) Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
(b) Others	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

Factories Act 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	25	6	Nil	Nil
Other Premises,	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found	Nil			

Outworkers. There are no outworkers in the District.

I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and co-operation during the year.

L. DEARDEN,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

